

Throw
Holiday
party!

Write
for
Femmes!

The College of
New Rochelle

Take
HON101

Move into
the
residence
halls

start

The
CNR Honors
Game

Catch
Senioritis!

Write
that
Thesis!

Congratulations

Graduation!

Femmes d'Esprit

CNR Honors Magazine ~ Spring 2004 ~ Issue 6

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LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

This edition of Femmes marks Kathryn's one year anniversary as Editor. This is her seventh issue.

As we come to the close of another academic year, there is much to reflect upon. The SAS Honors Program has had an extraordinary year. In the fall, we welcomed our new director, Dr. Amy Bass. Since then, Honors has been stepping into the new century.

Class syllabi have been revamped and new classes have been added to the Honors curriculum. Subjects that haven't been covered in quite some time are reemerging in Honors. We will be able to look forward to some very interesting seminars.

However, back to this year. In the fall, several students traveled to Chicago, Illinois to participate in the NCHC National Conference. Honors also made many exciting steps with the Office of Admissions in recruiting new students. Honors students helped as ambassadors, connectors, and tour guides to give prospective Honors students the whole nine yards about the Program.

The freshmen hosted their very own Holiday Celebration with great success in December! Then, everyone got to take a breather during January.

Moving into the Spring, four students traveled to

Connecticut for the NCHC Regional Conference (there is an article featured in this issue). Spring was very busy for the Honors Program. After getting settled back into the groove of classes, a new computer in the Honors Center arrived! Also, students from sophomore to senior class status presented projects and posters at Honors Conference Day (see more later in this issue).

Things are beginning to wind down. Final papers are being drafted and some are preparing for final exams. It is time to say goodbye to another year. And with bidding another year goodbye, we also have to say farewell to the Class of 2004.

The Class of 2004's members in the Honors Program are gifted and talented women. I have had the pleasure to get to know each of them in very individual ways and will miss them once they cross that stage in Radio City Music Hall. I know that many of you will also miss them. But, we have a series of new faces to look forward to in the fall. Soon enough, the Class of 2008 will have arrived on campus ready and gearing to go.

This issue also showcases several pages of Alumnae Up-

dates as well as two articles from Honors Alums. These tidbits of info are for the seniors who are preparing to go out into the real world. And one favor seniors...could you let us know how it is? In other words, keep in touch! The pages of *Femmes* will always have room for your thoughts.

In closing, allow me to thank everyone who has made *Femmes d'Esprit* such a success throughout the semester as well as the entire year. The magazine is by and for Honors students and we should all be proud of the standards of publication we have produced. I would also like to announce that *Femmes d'Esprit* is being entered in the 2004 NCHC National Conference's Honors Newsletter Contest. Wish *Femmes* luck!

Have a wonderful summer. Travel. Explore. Have fun. I look forward to another exciting year watching the evolution of the Honors Program as well as the evolution of each one of us.

Sincerely,

Kathryn M. Tyranski

DIRECTOR'S LETTER

Dr. Amy Bass

A Farewell to Seniors? But I only just got here....

Ahhhh, graduation. My favorite one aired on May 12, 1993, when lots of fictional folks that I dearly cared about chanted "Donna Martin graduates!" My last one was in 1999 – my doctoral hooding. The pop charts in June of 1999 were dominated by an unlikely candidate: Australian film director Baz Luhrmann, the mad genius who made ballroom dancing hilarious family fare, re-imagined bohemian France via the windows of Nirvana and Madonna, and reinvented *Romeo and Juliet* for the X/Y-Generations (I will never forget the experience of sitting in a movie theatre behind a stunned teenage girl who shouted to Leo "Noooooooooooo—CLARE'S NOT DEAD!") Luhrmann's spoken-word recording of "Everybody's Free (To Wear Sunscreen)" sold a quarter of a million copies in its first week, and almost immediately sprang to the top of Billboard.

Luhrmann's offering began a few years earlier as an e-mail authored by the still-unknown "Culprit Zero." It had circulated around the globe as a stereotypical valedictory speech, meaning it was stuffed full of all the advice we spew to graduates who, we claim, are about to enter "the real world" (because apparently they have been in Space Camp for the past four years.) Rumors emerged that the original author of this e-mail was none other than Kurt Vonnegut, who had delivered the speech at MIT's commencement. How utterly fabulous.

The phenomenon of "Sunscreen," which gave graduates advice such as "Sometimes you're ahead, sometimes you're behind; the race is long and, in the end, it's only with yourself," threw the recording industry for a loop that summer. Dropped on a Monday, rather than

the traditional Tuesday, the song took hold of the competitive summer market, one in which prom themes by the Backstreet Boys battled beach tunes by Ricky Martin. Indeed, legend now holds that many record companies pushed major releases (Britney?) back into July because of Luhrmann's unexpected hit.

Luhrmann (in the days before *Moulin Rouge* gave him legit Hollywood status) came across the famous e-mail via a friend, and quickly discovered that Vonnegut, indeed, did not write it, but rather Mary Schmich, a journalist (and writer of Brenda Starr – seriously, could this story get any better?) at the *Chicago Tribune*. Luhrmann contacted the newspaper and asked to record "Sunscreen" for his album *Something for Everybody*. A product of his Bazmark company, he intended the album to be, according to its press release, "An eclectic collection of reinterpreted and remixed tracks from a decade of innovative and dynamic film, theatre and opera productions directed by Baz Luhrmann."

Luhrmann backed Schmich's column, spoken by actor Lee Perry, with Rozalla's "Everybody's Free (To Feel Good), a club anthem from 1992 that also appeared on the *Romeo and Juliet* soundtrack. After it received heavy airplay on London radio, EMI released the track as a single. Indeed, the company that Johnny Rotten made infamous was so deluged with requests from fans of "Sunscreen" it had to set up an answering service to deal with the calls. So let's regroup: a newspaper column written to appear as a graduation speech became a cele-



brated hipster e-mail (allegedly written by the author of *Slaughter House Five*) that a cutting edge film director from another country got from a friend and recorded to house music for what was supposed to be an obscure album but proved to be a monster pop hit and a sentimental graduation staple. We have here, thanks to "high-speed" modems, the exemplification of what a post-industrial, postmodern version of the children's game telephone would look like. The media savvy Luhrmann perhaps articulated the song's significance best of all: "What I think is extraordinary, apart from the inherent values in the ideas, is that we were experiencing ourselves a historical moment in the life of the Internet, an example of how massive publishing power is in the hands of anyone with access to a PC."

And what if it happened now, with the graduation of the class of 2004, when DSL and Broadband wipes its hands with what we foolishly considered to be "high-speed" internet exchange just a few years ago? And what better advice could any of us offer now than the open refrain of Luhrmann's pop art masterpiece:

Ladies and gentlemen of the class of '99 – Wear sunscreen. If I could offer you only one tip for the future, sunscreen would be it. The long-term benefits of sunscreen have been proved by scientists, whereas the rest of my advice has no basis more reliable than my own meandering experience....

In the face of the rest of graduation treacle that Luhrmann wryly puts forth ("Do one thing every day that scares you. Sing. Don't be reckless with other people's hearts; don't put up

with people who are reckless with yours. Floss....Stretch...Get plenty of calcium....Be kind to your knees....") is the idea to wear sunscreen really so obscure? And do any of us actually put it on *every day*, like fashion magazines have been telling us to for the better part of a decade? Five years ago, high school and college graduates – and numerous others, if sales of "Sunscreen" mean anything – tuned into this message, proving wrong the always-there assertions that "today's young people" (imagine me saying that in my best old-male-white politician voice) are nihilistic, uninspired, lazy beings. How do we know this? Because they thrived on advice that instructed them to "Keep your old love letters; throw away your old bank statements...."

So I say farewell to our seniors – farewell, Kimberli; farewell, Jen; farewell, Richelle; farewell, Maya. I bid farewell to four young women who witnessed the Honors Program for the entire duration of its transition period (four Honors Directors in four years!) and, well, survived to the very end. I have relied on/depended upon/sought out/and utilized their advice from the very second that I arrived. So, congratulations on all that you are, on all that you shared, and on all that you will become. And as I glance at the words of "Sunscreen" I must admit that they do, indeed, make an awful lot of sense:

Be careful whose advice you buy, but, be patient with whose who supply it. Advice is a form of nostalgia, dispensing it is a way of fishing the past from the disposal, wiping it off, painting over the ugly parts and recycling it for more than it's worth. But trust me on the sunscreen...

THE POWER OF LA MUSICA

Shirley DelValle

Shirley is a Communication Arts and Psychology Major who listens to music every day on her morning commute

Music / makes the people / come together. I think Madonna said that. I've never been much of a fan, but when the lady is right, you best to give her props. Music is the heartbeat of life. My first memory of music was as a four-year-old child, sitting on my grandfather's lap as he attempted to "chair dance" salsa with me. The song was El Gran Combo's "Te Regalo El Corazon" (I'll give you my heart), a song that till this day I recognize immediately. The Puerto Rican rhythms with their conga drums, trumpets and maracas engulfed my home 24/7. My homesick dad served as DJ. He missed his beloved island and often told me that the one thing that kept him close to Ponce was the music.

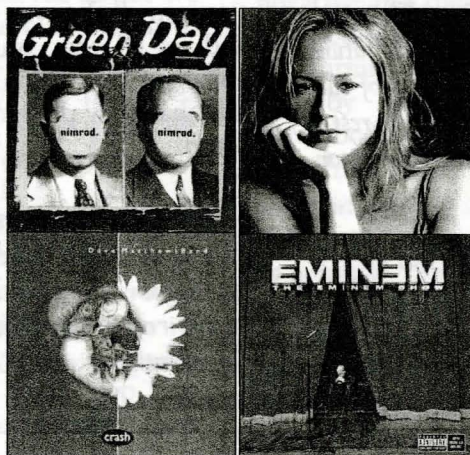
It was the music of his childhood, of his land that made him so happy. My papi and I don't exactly agree on every aspect of my life but if there's one thing we both habitually agree on, it's the power of music. If you think about it: music is the one thing that every single person loves. I've never heard anyone say "I hate music," but then again, why would anyone hate it?

There's a song for every memorable moment in our lives. From the song that reminds you of your first kiss to the one that brings back memories of your last heartache. There are songs that get you through the rough spots in life, the ones that make you laugh, smile and cry. There are those songs that come out on the radio and you start screaming because it's been years since you last heard it. There are the songs you lip synch to, the ones you know by heart and then

the ones that you just hum along to. Music has a way of putting into context that which we cannot articulate. It expresses emotion, provocative thought and is the link to memories; the good and bad ones.

The amazing thing about music is its ability to make you feel better on your worst day. It manages to stimulate the heart and mind. It's capable of summing up any experience of life. There's always a song that seems to encapsulate or epitomize a period of time in your life. Although I've always felt connected to music, my connection with it only became stronger after the events of September 11. Jewel's "Hands" which played on the radio continually for a month after the attacks, seemed to captivate the vulnerability that everyone felt in the days that followed 9/11. It also seemed to help listeners in their grief. There are those songs that simply have that ability to captivate you, from the moment you hear the first note; and sticking with you for the rest of your life. Green Day's "Good Riddance" seems to be a song that does this, many feel connected to this song because of its sad undertone of saying goodbye, but at the same time the dichotomy of it's fare-

well to the old and celebration of the moments that passed are what make this song such a memorable one. Dave Matthews "Crash" is the most sensual song in the world. *Hike up your skirt a little more and show your world to me, in a boys dream...crash into me.* Tell me that that is not sexy. Love that man. Songs stick with you throughout your life. I know they stick with me. I have mu



Photos: www.amazon.com

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IN THE DARKNESS

Camellia Safi

Camellia is a freshmen Sociology Major who enjoys writing immensely.

Forced to hide beneath the dark covering, with her every tear unknown to the world, she cried herself to sleep every night. Her whole body trembled, for her soul was in a battle to gain control, and yet a sound was not heard from the side of the room where she lay alone. She slept in a corner without any ceiling, only walls which served as an illusion for her to feel somewhat safe. The night sky glared down upon her, the stars cried for her, the moon longed to help her but it could not reach for she was too far. The sun's power slowly started to change the night into day, and the girl forced herself to awake. She did not want to leave the four walls that separated her from all that she feared, but her dry mouth ached for water, so she put on her Burqah and slowly started to leave the only place where she had ever felt any kind of peace. As she stepped into the wild, she saw starving little boys and girls lying on the streets, wanting to cry, but not having anymore tears left for they had faced too many hardships. She quickly turned around, without even bothering to wipe her own tears, for it was not seen under the covering anyway; nothing was seen under *that* covering. From a distance, she could see water, just when her heart begun to smile, a sudden shock was sent to her mind. She had seen them, the ones who had brought so much pain upon her, her family, her people and her country. With her head down, her hands shaking and her soul screaming at the tops of its lungs she made her way to the water. As she walked, she felt the burning eyes of the evil on her, and heard them chuckle and laugh. She started to walk faster, but a tight grip on her arm forced her to a sudden halt. They had

caught her, and her heart and mind both knew what the evil had planned to do. It was too late for her to run, for the four men had brought her into the abandoned room, she closed her eyes, wanted to call for help but knew it would do nothing but provoke more anger among the four men. She wondered if they would let her live, she prayed that they would kill her after their evil act, but she knew that their hearts were too harsh for something like that. When it was all done, the sixteen year old Afghan girl's whole body ached. She limped to the door, opened it, and was faced with darkness again. As she was walking back to her four-

"When are we going to realize that we are all ONE RACE?"

w a l l
h o m e ,
she was

thinking about the Taliban and their reasons for why she was forced to conceal her face, and hide her identity. They had said that it was to protect her from other gruesome men, and yet the Taliban were the ones who ripped all those clothes off of her and hurt her like no other human being could. She walked, thinking about how her voice was never heard, how she had no childhood, how all her life all she was ever faced with was suffering. She whispered to herself "I wonder what an Afghan Girl in America is doing at this second". Her thoughts were yet to be completed when a large BOOM was suddenly heard. She was about to fall, but balanced herself, and started to run to her four-walled home. She knew that it was another bomb, and she thought of all the people that it killed this time, and envied them because God had allowed them to leave this life and join him. She noticed that she was almost near her home, but she could not see anything because of all the smoke. She squinted past the darkness and the cloud that hid everything from her

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JENNIFER PINHEIRO REFLECTS...

The Honors Program at the College of New Rochelle is an intricate and essential part of education at CNR that challenges students. It has allowed me to do everything that I wanted at college and has been essential in making my program of study meaningful. It also has made it possible to do what I initially thought to be impossible: graduate in three years without a major strain in my life and without dedicating my whole life to classes and studying.

When I first started in the Honors Program my freshman year, I was involved in both the Honors INS class and the Honors Critical Writing class. Both of these helped me in planning the rest of my college itinerary and to get used to the college in terms of expectations and forms of writing. In the spring semester of that year, I was involved in the experimental HON 103 class. It was a great class that encouraged debates on certain topics. This led to my success in passing my INS 400, class which was based in stating views elegantly. In my sophomore year, I decided to take a combination of Junior Colloquium and Western Ideologies. Both of these classes have helped me to think critically. My general topic for Colloquium was Women and Law. In the first section, we debated topics like prostitution and paternal leave. We were forced to take sides and to stick to what we believed. In the second part of Colloquium, I wrote a thesis on how religion affected the law of Ancient Rome, focusing mainly on the time of Augustus. In Western Ideologies, I learned to think and examine everything. We studied great philosophers from all the ages and learned a lot of philosophy. My final courses in the program were both Senior Symposium and Discourses of Slavery in the Americas. These have only added to my critical thinking skills and my ability to write. The final task is the presenta-



Jennifer Pinheiro '04
presenting her Senior
Symposium Project.

Photo: A. Raia

Photo: K. Tyranski

tion of my senior symposium project of strategies to teach Latin. This will also affect what I do in the future because I will attend Boston University for graduate school and will eventually be teaching Latin.

The other great benefit of the Honors Program is that it plunged me into leadership. I was elected my freshmen year to be the chair of the Honors Program. During my leadership experience, I created a movie night, in which we viewed Honors students' works, and also a pizza party in order to socialize with other Honors members. Both of these events were rewarding and fun. I have sat on the Honors Board for the final year of my schooling and have learned about its structure and rules. I have had the opportunity to fundraise for the program and attend three conferences in which I have had the ability to take part in panel presentations and in an independent poster presentation on "Closing the Gates of Janus in the South".

The Honors Program as a whole gave me the opportunity to research the topics I wanted and to become wise with what I needed to survive in the real world and graduate. If CNR is "Wisdom for Life," it is only because of the opportunities the Honors students are offered to challenge themselves and create the wisdom they need to survive.

...DR. ANN RAIA REMEMBERS

Studia feminamque cano ...

Let me turn in barbarian tongue to sing the praises of a *mulierivirilis virtutis*! This is the tale of a courageous, magnanimous, and energetic student on the swift course, who arrived on campus in 2000 (all unaware were we!), overpointed every semester (against the advice of her Mentor), undertook the challenges of a classics major in a one-woman department (a Herculean task only equaled by Atlas himself), threw herself into Campus Ministry activity with heart and spirit (although she shared Augustine's devotion to pagan texts), took on the role of Residence Assistant in sophomore year (against the advice of her Mentor), tutors writing, classics, and math (*mirabile dictu!*) in LSS (with the patience of avenging Odysseus), serves as the Teaching Assistant in Elementary Latin (at the behest of her Mentor), and now a mere three years later is renting robes to walk in the academic procession of the baccalaureates, her acceptance in hand for the one-year Masters in Teaching Latin Program at Boston University!

Sing, oh Muse, of the *gyne polutropos*! (I couldn't resist! I can hear Jennifer laughing!)

Jennifer arrived with the Class of 2005, the last one I recruited into the Honors Program as Director and the first one after Dr. McManus' retirement. She declared her Latin major (one of two freshmen) almost immediately, which meant that she would take all of her major courses with me, sharing class with few or no students (which often led her to recruit for class). As a result, I have a special bond with Jennifer, who, this semester, is enrolled in three courses with me (*Euripides* in advanced Greek, for which she is writing her Departmental Honors thesis, *Horace and the Latin Love Poets* in advanced Latin, and *Honors Senior Symposium*, for which she is serving as TA in the Elementary Latin class as the fieldwork com-

ponent of her seminar on Teaching Latin). Jennifer has grown from a talented freshman who moaned at an assignment of 30 lines of Ciceroian prose to one who doesn't blanch at completing 100 lines of Greek poetry for class.

Jen's academic accomplishments:

A double major in Classics and Religious Studies, she has a minor in Spanish. Graduating in three years, she begins her MAT in Classics studies at Boston University in June. Having taken courses in both Latin and Greek, she is presenting an Honors Symposium on teaching languages and taking an independent study in Euripides. She is the Teaching Assistant for the Introduction to Latin classes. Her commentary project for the Fall '02 course *Roman Women* is on line in *De Feminis Romanis* at Diotima. Her project on Juvenal's *Satura* 3.162-238 for *Roman Satire* is on VRoma. She was awarded a Taylor Study Abroad grant and a Classics grant to attend Baylor University's 2003 Summer Study in Italy Program, enrolled in a Latin course on Roman Comedy and an Art & Archaeology course. A Residence Assistant, a math and writing tutor, she is active in Campus Ministry.

Next year, Kim Nickerson and I will miss Jen's presence in class – her vivacity, her good humor, her enthusiasm, her honesty and integrity, her dependability, her willingness to take risks, her swiftness of thought, her skill in grammar.

Congratulations and Success to you, Jen: KUDOS! MACTE VIRTUTE!



Right: Jennifer Pinheiro (back row, right) and her Residence Life Staff (Cynthia Demosthene '04, Alex Riobe '04, Chanel Carter '05, April Borgialang, and Kathryn Tyranski '06) in Ursula Hall.

Photo: K. Tyranski

POST-COLLEGE LIFE CHEAT SHEET OR... HOW TO STOP WORRYING & LOVE YOUR NEW LIFE PROSPECTS

Kelley L. Allen, Honors SAS '98

Kelley is eBook Production Editor for Time Warner Book Group.

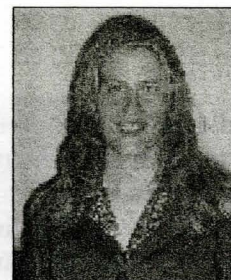


Photo: K. Tyranski

Post-Collegiate After Shock
n. A malady that strikes many recent college graduates who are clueless how to proceed with their lives. Caused by having a very structured socially-dictated Life path of progressing institutions called schools and then left with no direction after the completion of nearly two decades of school work. School withdrawal symptoms include excessive sweating, shakes, headaches, and massive loan debt.

As long as I can remember, I knew that the time after college graduation would be the hardest time in my life. Despite planning for this time of life since the age of ten, I was still very much taken off guard when the time did come, and I wish that I had someone to guide me through this process. However, fear not, since this is part of life's rich pagentry that is to be endured and thus to be strengthened by. Below are some pointers that I really wish someone told me about before I graduated college. You may not agree with all but I hope that at least one tip serves you well in this trying time.

- **Keep Updated About Job Market:** Every week, even if you are very happy in your job, read the trade classifieds. It's a good way to see what comparable jobs are out there, what skills you need to stay in demand, and what are comparable salaries.

Practical situation: During your yearly review:

Boss: "You did a great job this year but I don't think we have it in the budget to give you a raise."

Savvy You: "Really? Oh, by the way Boss, here is a list of job listings for a similar position to mine. The salaries are all over \$10,000 than my own salary. Oh, look at that, they are still hiring too."

Boss: "I see. Let me see what I can do."

- **Retirement Funds—Not Just For Retirement:** Start your retirement fund now. Open a Roth IRA. After five years, you can borrow up to half towards a down payment for your first house without penalty. Believe it or not, but you may be looking to buy a house sooner than you would expect.

Practical Situation: Savvy You: I saved \$50 per month from my work study job since Freshman year and placed in a Roth IRA. Then another \$100 when I started to work. Four years after graduation, I now have \$7,200.

- **Undecided?:** Still not sure what you want to do yet? Don't worry. My own field didn't even exist eight years ago. Keep in mind: Gandhi was a failed lawyer and Isadora Duncan didn't start to dance until she was twenty.

Book Tip: Read *Creating Minds* and learn more about these late bloomers.

- **Specialize:** when you finally decide on a field. For example, I specialize in eBooks/Print-On-Demand in the field of Publishing. Since it's so new, I was able to advance up the career ladder at a rapid pace in comparison to if I decided to stay in traditional print publishing. In addition, I get to hobnob with the top people in the field. However, the trick is to also not get too specialized that you create a ceiling for yourself and can't

advance.

- **Update Your Résumé and always keep it on hand.** This sounds like a no-brainer but I wish to emphasize this point for two reasons.

Real-life situations: 1) Last month, the top ePublishing person at a large competitor called me out of the blue. He was the leaving his position for another house and wanted me to come in for an interview for his job immediately. BANG!—My résumé was promptly sent out. 2) Recently, we were hiring an intern and received an excellent candidate. The only problem was that the hiring managers were very concerned since the résumé was out-of-date, and she nearly didn't get the job.

- **Business Relationships:** Be very careful of the relationship you develop with your boss and colleagues. A boss can become such an integral part of your life. Be careful not to get too emotionally entangled. Also be very careful what you tell colleagues.

Real-life situation: Once at a company Christmas Party, one of my tipsy colleagues told my department about something she did that was very shocking. My other col-

leagues were very offended by this news and would often mock her behind her back about it.

- **Graduate School:** Although grad school is a great thing, and learning should be a treasured life-long endeavor, be very careful when considering it. From my observations, many people use grad school as an escape from reality. Many feel very disillusioned about the world/job and use this as justification for going to grad school. Be careful since grad school is a huge investment of time and money.

- **Travel:** Do it now, while your loans are in deferment. Work abroad through the Council Travel Program, drive cross-country, or go backpacking through the world. Take advantage of student discounts. Once you get started on your career path, finding the time and money to travel will mostly likely not be possible.

- **Assessing Relationships:** Many soon-to-be grads are often terrified about the thought of the imposing real world and often cling desperately to the thing most familiar—a significant other. You must ask yourself, will this

person hold me back from my dreams?

Real-life situations: I personally know of a few friends who were married in or right after college. A majority of these couples are now in Splitsville and often wondered what they ever saw in their ex.

- **Salary negotiation and promotion:** One of the most important pieces of advice I can bestow is to beware of self-imposed glass ceilings in regards to salaries/job position. It's a small wonder that women are not paid the same amount as men are. It's not that men have more opportunities, but as a whole, women tend to be more modest and self-effacing about their abilities. Human Resources knows this and will take advantage. DO NOT undervalue yourself at the HR negotiating table.

What to do? Before you go to any job interview, do the following: 1) Read several articles on salary negotiation. My favorite method is called The Noel Smith-Wenkle Salary Negotiation Method. 2) Check out salary surveys in your industry. 3) Go to BLS.gov and salary.com.

AVENUE Q

Tung Nguyen

Tung is a freshman Biology Major. This is her Femmes debut!

In a breathless whisper, the words "May I have your autograph?" came out of my mouth. Even I could not hear myself, and I wonder if Ann Harada understood what I said to her, or if her responses were conditioned since she had been asked for her signature so many times. Oh OK, the conversation that followed could have gone much better if I had been able to control my nervousness. But you must understand my predicament!! You see from the person I chased after to get an autograph of was the Ann Harada who plays Christmas Eve in the Broadway musical *Avenue Q*.

Thanks to Dr. Amy Bass's engineering, the Honors "Race and Ethnicity" class had the opportunity to see *Avenue Q*, a musical about the only place one can afford to live in when one is either fresh out of college or having a difficult time figuring out life's plan. Under the direction of Jason Moore, puppets and their human neighbors present to the audience lessons about life's bigotry, finding one's purpose, and acknowledging one's sexuality. What makes *Avenue Q* unique from other puppet shows is the live interaction between the puppets and the human cast, with the puppeteers in full view. Just seeing the fluidity of the movement and the voice-over makes one more appreciative of the hard work that the cast had put into the production.

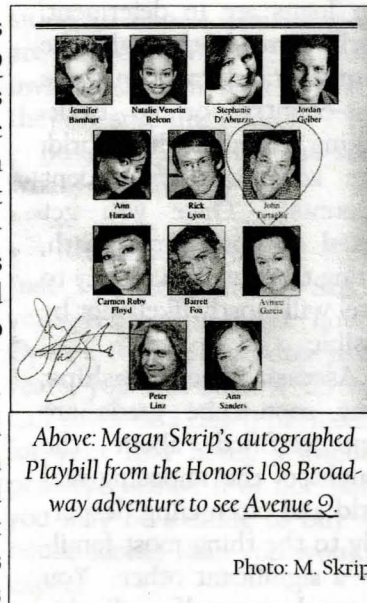
Leading the cast is John Tartaglia, who plays the dreamy-eyed puppet Princeton. Even though Princeton has recently received his B.A. in English, he realizes that his degree is useless since he has no job. He, however, still wants

to "contribute to the human race." Later, through his relationship with Kate Monster, he finds the inspiration to apply himself and raise money to build an all-monster school for Kate. The act redeems Princeton in Kate's eyes, for earlier, he had asked her if she was related to the pornography-loving Trekkie Monster. I guess the question was reasonable—Kate and Trekkie have the same last name after all. But no!! According to Kate, it is racist to think that all monsters are related; not all monsters look alike!

But Kate is racist too, right? She wants to open an all monster school is racist, Kate and Princeton break into a song about how everyone, in actuality, is "a little bit racist." The song is quite offensive if taken out of context; however, on the stage, it delivers the message about identifying one's prejudices and stereotypes in a comedic manner that appeals to the audience.

In the words of Kate and Princeton, "If we all could just admit /That we are racist a little bit/ Even though we all know that it's wrong/ Maybe it would help us/ Get along!"

The rest of the show is also filled with peppy songs. For example, the unemployed psychiatrist Christmas Eve gives Kate love advice by crooning "the more you love someone, the more you want to kill him." Maybe that is why she is unemployed, despite the her master's degree in psychiatry. Nonetheless, Christmas Eve may have possibly given Kate the chance to define the line between "a lover and a friend." It is not a crime that love is not part of reality now. Love is always un-

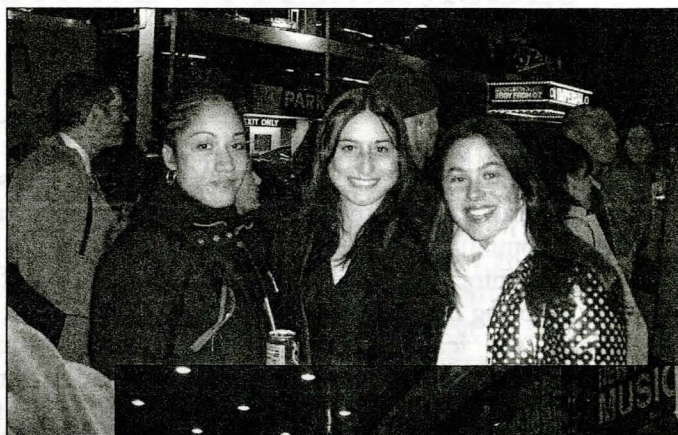


Above: Megan Skrip's autographed Playbill from the Honors 108 Broadway adventure to see *Avenue Q*.

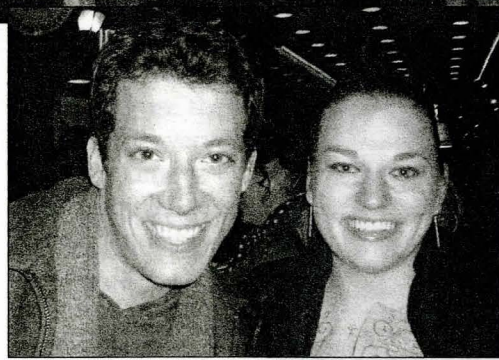
Photo: M. Skrip

predictable and one can only know if the fight for love is worth it after some troubled times.

For the finale, the cast sings "For Now," expressing their sentiments and hopes that the depressing headlines featuring *Avenue Q* will be only temporary. After all, "George Bush is only for now!" Even though the musical does not stir the audience into action about fixing their life problems, the parody that is *Avenue Q* leaves the audience interested and entertained.



Clockwise: Lina Chico '07, Bekki Mui '07, and Alana Ruptak '05 smile outside the theatre; Megan Skrip '07, Ruth Santiago '06, and Tung Nguyen '07 smile at the camera; The Honors 108 Class poses in anticipation for the start of *Avenue Q*; John Tartaglia and Kathryn Tyranski '06 meet after the show; Nada Ebrahim '07 and Camellia Safi '07 enjoy Manhattan.



Photos: K. Tyranski

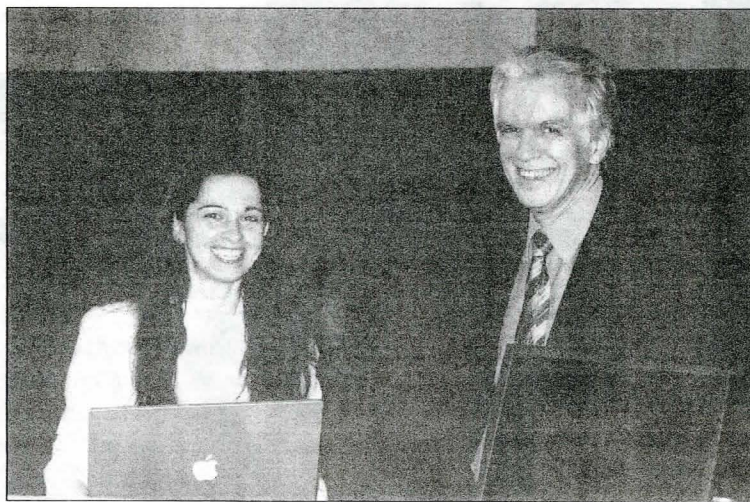
EMORY CRAIG EVOKES MEMORY...

Over the past four years, Maya Georgieva has become an integral part of the academic community at the College. Coming from Bulgaria and majoring in International Affairs, she leaves with an outstanding record of academic achievement. Her internships and UN-related work have already drawn praise for her research and efforts to develop support for ratification of the Convention on the Rights of the Child. Engaged and open to new ideas, she draws from her experience of growing up in Eastern Europe under regimes that offered little respect for individual rights and fellow citizens who had to learn (and are still having to learn) that they hold in

their hands the power to change their lives. It is that experience that sustains her dedication to not only understand the issues of the contemporary world, but to also seek out concrete solutions that are the foundation of real change.

Hailing from the land of Orpheus, Maya also plays her own Siren song, that of the benefits of using technology in higher education and to further the cause of human rights in the international arena. At CNR, she has played critically important roles in the implementation of ANGEL, in the design of area and department Web pages, in conducting technology workshops, and in working with individual students and faculty to help integrate technology into the cur-

riculum. So many of us have sought out her assistance for (stubborn) equipment, (impossibly complicated) software, (vanishing) files, and to help turn (unruly) course sites into student centered learning resources . . . the list is endless. But she has helped us not simply through what she knows, but by sharing her enthusiasm and conviction that we must communicate and collaborate in the pursuit of knowledge. This is her real gift to the community—to us—that we will teach, learn, interact and live more fully in a connected, networked world. Maya may move on, but the connections she has helped create will always remain. Orpheus would smile.



Maya Georgieva '04
and Emory Craig,
her faculty friend
and mentor.

Photo: A. Bass

...MAYA GEORGIEVA REMINISCES

Influences in Life can come from everywhere. It is like a rain from a summer storm that will water the seeds deeply hidden inside you and will make them grow into beautiful flowers. Yes, my time at CNR had a significant impact on my life. CNR challenged my dreams and gave me the power to pursue them. I am happy that I was able to spend the last four years being part of the community here, pursuing my major in International Studies, participating in the Human Rights Title VI Grant, the Honors Program and Academic Computing. I enjoyed being here and getting to know a place and people so wonderful. CNR helped me to get to know myself and to grow into the individual I am today. My classes here, interdisciplinary in nature, provoked many questions, often not easy ones. My passion for knowledge was awakened and every class and conversation added new perspectives and issues to reflect on. I was studying political theory while at the same time creating programs to bring about change for the children and women in the world. I was trying to learn how best to utilize the power of new information and communication technology and new forms of media and use them to make our world a peaceful place for everyone.

My time at CNR was like a trip into the sea of knowledge about the world. I came with two suitcases and a head full of dreams and I leave now with new confidence and passion to follow them. By living, studying and communicating with people from different cultures, I have been able to see some of the diversity and greatness of this world and realize how much I can do and achieve. CNR and everybody here

have touched my life forever and I am profoundly grateful for every moment of this time.

It really feels like yesterday when I first stepped on the CNR campus all happy and excited that I was here, finally here, starting my first freshman semester at the College of New Rochelle. It was a two year project taking TOEFL and SAT exams, filling applications back in Bulgaria that seemed to take forever, and it was suddenly all over as I was now walk-



Photo M. Georgieva

ing on the campus with my heart beating louder than ever and filled with joy. My happiness was immense and in one of my first essays for INS 101 I simply wrote, "It is nice to have a dream come true. In the fall of 2000 The College of New Rochelle welcomed me warmly and I opened a new chapter of my life full of expectations!" It was that dream, those

blissful days, that I thought were greater than ever, something I would not feel again, but I was wrong. Today, again, as a senior I am happy. CNR has made possible yet another wish of mine as I am starting the Master's Program in International Affairs at the School of Public and International Affairs at Columbia University in the fall semester. I know I could not have done it without CNR, without my advisor Dr. Anne McKernan and all the professors, friends and people who are part of the College, who shared their knowledge, stories and wisdom with me, who supported me in my adventure. The CNR community has become a home way from home for me and a significant part of my life. Four years ago I thought I had opened only a chapter of my life; now I know it is forever -- wisdom for life.

Thank you CNR!

WHAT ARE YOU DOING WHEN YOU GRADUATE?

Meghan Toomey, Honors SAS '02

The worst question a senior in college can be asked is "what are you doing when you graduate?" I used to wince every time I heard this question, and my constant answer was "I don't know yet." This answer is very common for seniors, and for a very valid reason. With the exception of a few people, most students will not know what they are going to do until very close to graduation or after leaving school altogether. However, it is important to start the process of career planning before you graduate.

Planning a career does not begin with job searching, in a way it starts with soul searching. The first step to figuring out what you want to do with your life is assessing your interests and values. Ask yourself these questions.

- What do you like doing? Think about what kind of jobs you can picture yourself doing.
- What are your values? Determining what values and ideals you live by can help you to figure out what kind of job would fit with your lifestyle.
- What would be your ideal working environment? There are many things to consider when answering this question: would you rather work days or nights? Do you want to work in groups most of the time? Would you prefer to work in an urban, suburban or rural setting?
- Determine your priorities- What is most important to you about a job? For example, is salary or location more important?

Once you have assessed your interests it is important to identify your skills and experience. Determine what skills you have gained

from your experiences at The College of New Rochelle. Think about any jobs that you may have worked at CNR or off campus and consider your extra-curricular activities. How can

these skills be transferred to the type of job you are looking for? After deciding what skills you already possess, think about what skills you may need to develop in order to obtain your ideal job. If there are skills that you would like to build up, consider doing volunteer work, working a part-time job or internship, going to graduate school or for professional training.

This may sound like a lot of work already, but it is just the beginning. Most likely, you will be able to easily answer many of these questions already. The next step is finding a job. When searching and interviewing for jobs, keep in mind the following points:

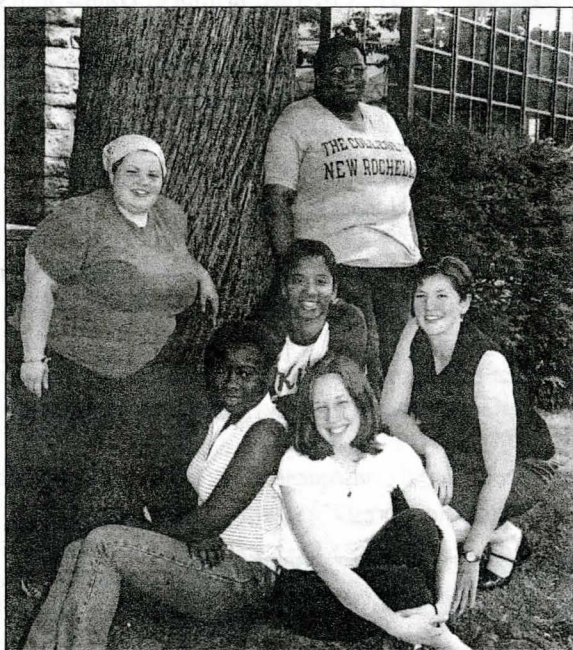
- It is better to over dress rather than under dress for an interview. Even if you are interviewing at a company or institution where you are well known, it is best to dress in a professional suit.
- Utilize your resources; CNR has an excellent career center and services are free for all alumnae/i of the College. Having a career counselor read your cover letter or resume may make the difference between getting an interview or not. They can also



Photo: K. Tyranski

provide you with resources, such as a resume writing guide or information about where to search for the type of job you are looking for.

Once you have found a job/career that you think will fit you well, it is time to start your search. Talking to professionals in the field you want to enter can give you more information about the day-to-day setting of their job. Net-



Meghan Toomey '02 is currently a Resident Director at the College in Maura Hall. The above picture was taken at the beginning of the academic year. It portrays Meghan and her staff of five student Resident Assistants:

Clockwise from top: Judith Jeremie, Meghan Toomey, Julia Geronimo, Tameika Vidal, Kerri Mahon, and Erica Dotel.

Photo: Courtesy of Office of Student Development and Programs

working with people you know is also important. Let your professors, friends and family members know what kind of job you are looking for, they may know someone in your field or know of a job opening in their area. Remember, when you are job searching, check several sources for job postings, including internet engines (like monstertrak, which is free for CNR students and alum), local newspapers and publications that are specific to your field.

Finding a job is not easy. You have to be persistent; you will not find a job overnight. Most likely you will send out dozens of resumes and only hear back about a few. Remember to let people help you, you cannot find all the information you need by yourself. Keep in mind that you should be specific about the kind of job that you want to obtain but you may also have to be flexible. Accept the idea that you may not find your ideal job right after graduation, think about other jobs that you could work. In the meantime, focus on building transferable skills, such as communication, time management, organization, etc. and keep up with the work you are doing. Do not risk pissing off your current boss who could be a potential reference in the future. The best advice you can get for graduation, while looking for a job or building a career, is to keep at it.

HONORS CONFERENCE DAY 2004

On Thursday, April 23rd, the Honors Program celebrated Honors Conference Day. Taking a somewhat different approach, this year's conference featured presentations and poster boards. Held in Maura Ballroom, the event was organized by Vanessa Ceron '05. Honors contract presentations and poster boards were displayed as well as the work from the Junior Honors Colloquium, "America's Role in the World" taught by Dr. Nelson Ong. The following are pictures from the event as well as the presenters' names and projects.



Vanessa Ceron—"Outsourcing and the Global Market Place"

Cindy Bastien—"Simone de Beavoir: A Woman?"

Michele Dola—"Differences in News Coverage: Britain vs. United States"

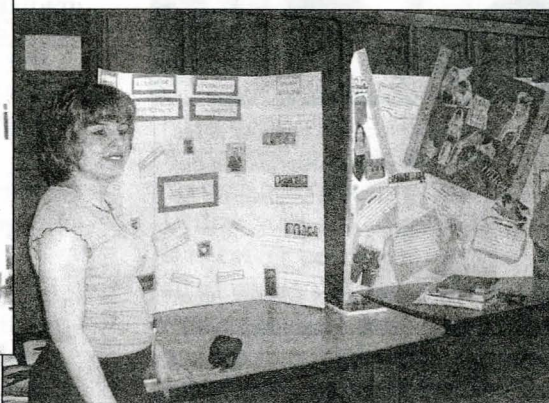
Maya Georgieva—"Civil Society and Global Governance: Landmine Campaign Review and Assessment"

Maya Georgieva—"Honors Online: Creating the Honors Website"

Leslie Gonzalez—"The Effect of American Pop Culture on Sexual Attitudes in Latin America"

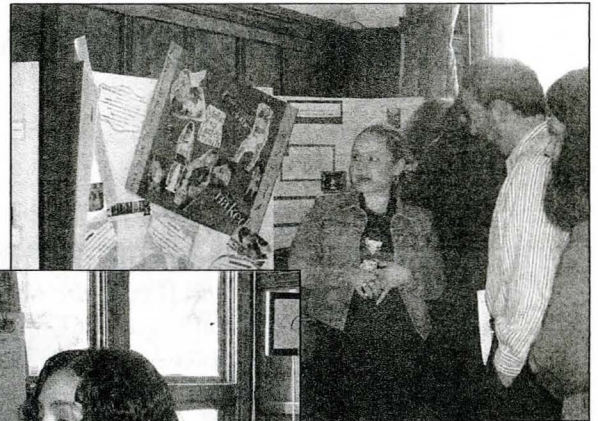
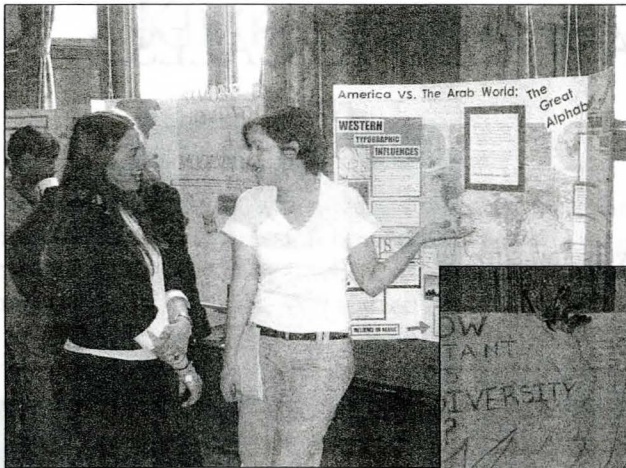
Maria Gonzalez—"Discovering How English and Arabic Letterforms Reflect and Inform National Identity through their Aesthetics"

Amy Gutierrez—"Global Consequences Due to Loss of Biodiversity in Tropical Rainforests"



Clockwise from top: Samantha Young '05 and Dr. Elisabeth Brinkmann discuss a topic; Giau Nguyen discusses her topic with Emory Craig; Dr. Ryan observes Kathryn Tyranski's '06 poster; Samantha Turano '05 stands by her poster proudly.

Photos: A. Bass



Judith Jeremie—"The Merging of Pop Cultures: US and Japan"

Lacy-Ann Landell—"The Hudson River"

Giau Nguyen—"Biological Invasions in the Hudson River"

Amy Perry—"A Cultural Study of an American Icon"

Elizabeth Skrip—"The Changing Face of the Hudson River"

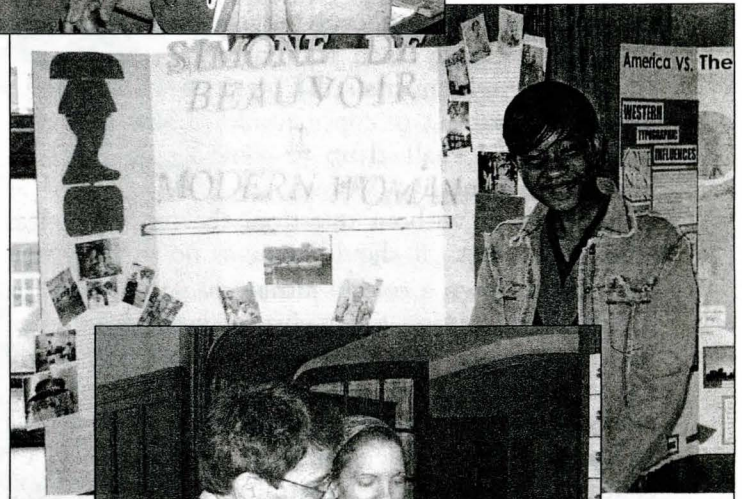
Kimberli Ringel-Kane—"The Castles of Disney: Through the Eyes of Culture"

Alana Ruptak—"Artful Ethics: Commonalities in European and the US's Art Therapy Ethical Codes"

Samantha Turano—"Gay Censorship in the Media: A Look at USA and Canadian Portrayals of Homosexuality on TV"

Kathryn Tyranski—"Propaganda: A Contrast between World War II and the Iraq War"

Samantha Young—"Serial Killers"



Clockwise from top: Maria Gonzalez '05 tells Alana Ruptak '05 all about font; Amy Gutierrez '05 showing off her environmental skills; Leslie Gonzalez '05 chats with Dr. Stephen O'Rourke at her poster; Cindy Bastien '06 smiles for the camera; Dr. Nelson Ong and Amy Perry '05 discuss Batman.

Photos: A. Bass

LAURIE PETERSON CASTALDO RECALLS...

"Oh, look, it's pink!"

First it was pink bathroom tile, then pink towels and slippers, soap and sponge, and finally the obligatory pink champagne. It was a dream come true for Kimberli Ringel-Kane as she sank into her luxurious dusty rose bath at the climax of last spring's production of *The Women*. Who knew that this third year student had the acting chops to pull off the *femme fatale* in Clare Boothe Luce's seminal 1940s comedy? Certainly not I.

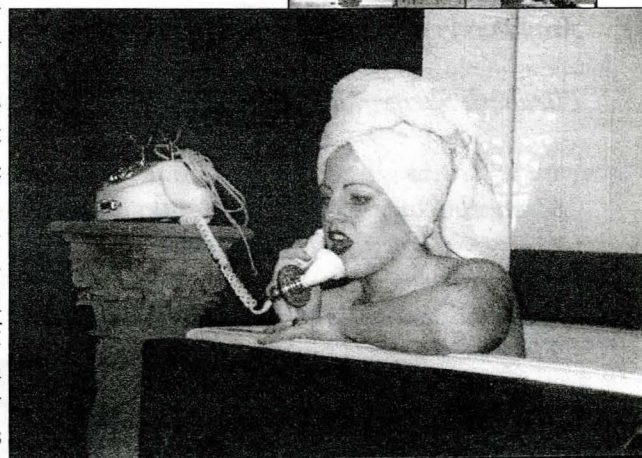
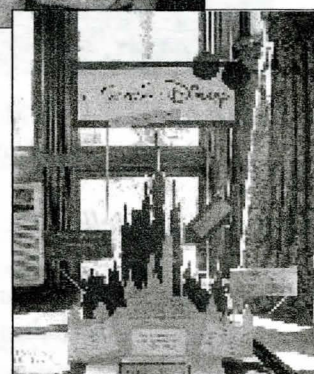
But there were signs. Although a relative newcomer to CNR Drama (she appeared in *A Chorus Line* the previous fall), I'd always been aware of Kimberli's presence on campus merely because she's ... well ... out there. Forever moving from table to table in the cafeteria, laughing, chatting, carrying on multiple conversations along Castle Place, running to her next class or meeting (indeed, she seldom sits still). And, of course, there's her cheerleading – a subject of considerable ribbing in recent times – that I chalked up to some latent Southern belle, co-ed mentality. Wrong.

Kimberli is, without question, the most guileless student I've met. It should come as no surprise that she turned down a role in *Metamorphoses* because she didn't want to upset a perceived balance of fairness. Instead, she took on the exhausting and time consuming job of crew chief, with responsibilities that included emptying, scrubbing, and disinfecting the pool and preparing it for each subsequent performance. Of course, it all came back to bite her in the butt when we needed a stand-in for a sick actor, and she had only 48 hours to learn the part of Aphrodite. ("I always wanted to be a goddess.") She ended up playing it for the entire run. Moral: be careful what you wish for.

In short, Kimberli has integrity, and that, I believe, makes her a good actor. And a good friend. I am the happy benefactor of both.

Good luck, you little cheerleader, you.

- Laurie Peterson Castaldo



Top to Bottom: Kimberli and her grandmother; Kimberli's Honors Conference Day Poster; Kimberli in the tub as "Crystal" in CNR Drama's Production of *The Women*.

Photos: K. Ringel-Kane, A. Bass, L. Castaldo

...KIMBERLI RINGEL-KANE LOOKS BACK

Wow...has it really been four years already? I know it is an old expression however, 'it truly does seem like yesterday' when we first entered the doors of CNR. We started as a class of fifteen, but somehow over the years we slowly became four. We didn't let that stop us though. We continued on with our education in Honors and pursued the career we looked forward to so much.

Remember our first INS class, how about Honors Critical Research, or our trip to the convent? We thought we knew it all, boy, were we wrong. Through the years we have grown into ourselves; flowered out of that awkward stage we entered in and metamorphosed into young women: strong, educated, independent.

Faculty and staff were there to guide us, steer us in the right direction, and of course to support us during those few times when we were just utterly lost. Friends we made over the years became our new family, constantly pulling us through those all-nighters, last minute cramming sessions, and of course the "few" parties we attended.

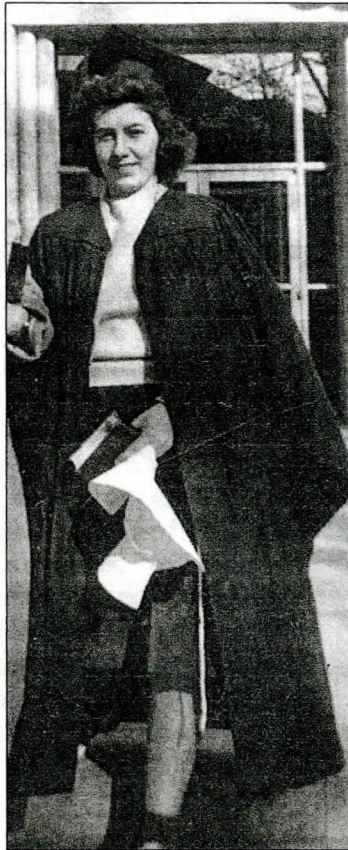
I came to CNR with a legacy already created; walking down the sidewalk brought many hellos from people I didn't even know. My grandmother had truly enjoyed her life here at the College. And like

her, I enjoyed mine too. To celebrate her life and time spent at CNR, I will be wearing the robe she wore for her graduation at Hooding and Commencement. I feel privileged to have followed in her footsteps, one of the many women who believed in the power of education for women.

Over the years I have had the opportunity to write many speeches and reflections that would be delivered or published to various audiences. However, this is the hardest one I have ever had to write. Graduation is a bitter sweet ending; anxiously looking forward to the future and all that is in store for, but remembering the time spent here and how much the people you love so much will be missed. It is a time spent reflecting on everything you accomplished, reminiscing about the laughs you had, and even crying about the next big leap into what will be your life.

I wonder what doors will open for me, which one I will choose to walk through, and where it will lead me. The one thing that keeps me reassured is this: I know that from my

four years dedicated to CNR, I am prepared, I am ready to be challenged, I am ready to conquer the world!



Above: Kimberlee's grandmother at her very own graduation.

Photo: K. Ringel-Kane

EDUCATION FOR SERVICE

Maya Georgieva

Maya is a graduating senior. She conducted an internship at the United Nations while at CNR.

Imagine a little girl with brown hair, almost always left leisurely down for the wind to blow it with its tender movements. Imagine a pair of brown eyes that can never stop moving, always having a question to ask, always with an idea to express. Imagine a little girl with pockets full of colored chalk and pencils, practicing for hours how to draw doves outside her window and images of children of all colors living together in harmony in her dreams.

It was a long time ago but these were my first attempts to express my feelings and my thoughts, my drawings of a world I knew so little of. This was my voice for a better world, my first roughly drawn letters for peace. I am now a different person, a senior at the College of New Rochelle. It was my dream to be able to spread awareness for children's rights around the world and I like to think that in some ways, I am living the dream that I had as that little girl.

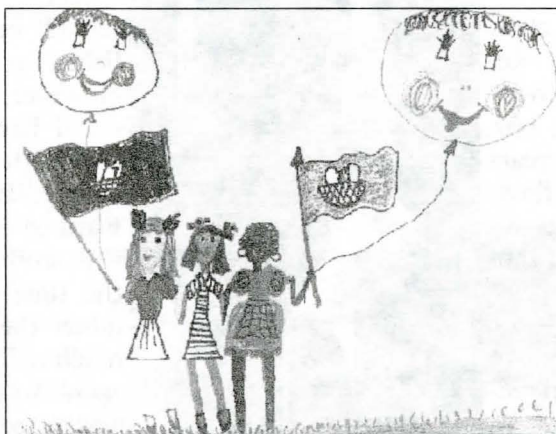
As a young woman today I study International Studies at CNR and have a passion to

make people aware of their human rights. The school mission statement for service was a natural fit for me. I was fortunate to be part of the Human Rights Title VI Project and worked and volunteered my time to make more students, faculty and staff conscious and responsive to

dedicated to developing materials that will bring awareness for children rights in America. The United Nations Convention of the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) is an inspirational document created to ensure that children around the world will grow and develop to their fullest potential. While the U.S.

is the country with one of the highest standards of living in the world, it has not ratified the Convention of The Rights of the Child and all too many Americans are unaware of the plight of so many of the world's children. One of the main obstacles I found when researching some of the reasons is lack of awareness of the public about this document. While in UNICEF, I developed a number of materials

for spreading awareness for CRC in the US, explaining the major goals of this Convention and how it will change the lives of American children. I found myself not just writing about this document, and discussing it with the UNICEF staff, but also posing and asking questions to the students in and outside the classes on the CNR campus.



Above: Maya drew this picture when she was six-years-old.

the issues of human rights. The grant stirred my enthusiasm, and I spent long hours working together with Dr. McKernan and the other faculty and students to help make human rights part of the curriculum at the College.

In Spring Semester of 2003, I interned at the US Fund for UNICEF, for NGO Director and CNR alum Meg Gardenier. My time at UNICEF was

In the spring, I was invited to give a presentation about my work in UNICEFUS to a CNR Social Work class, where I was able to not just talk about the CRC but also face the questions some of the students had. Empowered from my internship at the UNICEFUS and inspired by the questions and concerns of students at CNR, I volunteered more time in the summer and developed a proposal for a youth campaign that will introduce students from various parts of the country to the Convention and bring them together as they all participate in a project to empower their lives and the lives of the children in their families and communities. Working on this project and communicating with volunteers and staff from various NGOs has been a truly inspirational experience for me and a true affirmation that individuals should strive to make a difference in their lives and in the

lives of others. While the internship has been long over I continue to serve UNICEF US and I know that this experience is transforming my life.

In my mind's eye, I can still see that brown haired girl, pockets full of color chalk, drawing the children of the world. I am older and wiser now, and the world is not the simple place she thought it was. But her passion has not changed and her desire to help the children burns just as bright. In my hope for the future I want to continue working to improve the lives of the children of the world, for they are our future and will transform the world we live in. For me, service is giving oneself whether it will be time, talent or resources, to make the world a better place. For me service is not only touching lives but being touched by the lives of others, and there is nothing more empowering than that.



MUSICA

Continued from Page 6

sis with me, in me and surrounding me. I'm walking home, I'm listening to music on my walkman. I'm sleeping, that's right, music. I get up, music. You get the point. The best thing about music is this: It can mean anything to anyone. You're free to make it mean whatever it is you want it to mean. Music let's you be you. It doesn't judge you, it doesn't scorn you, it doesn't yell back and it's there in the morning.

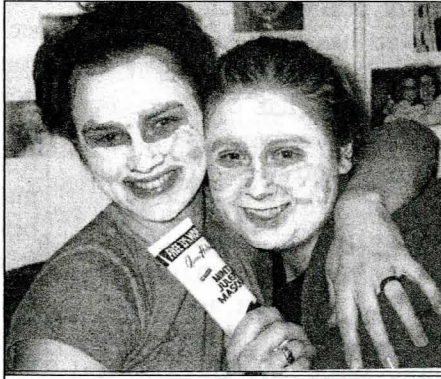
Music is freedom of expression; it's the medium for sincere demonstration of the mind and soul. Where else would an artist like Eminem be able to talk about his mom negatively and get applauded for it? Where else would it be ok to say what you feel and touch the hearts of others. Music is in everyone. We may not all like the same kind, we may march to the beat of a different drummer, but the point is there's a drummer and if there's a drummer you know there's music. So here's what I want you to do: Go home and listen to your entire cd collection, then pick out *your* theme song and smile because life is that much better when there's music. And music, according to Dick Clark, *is the soundtrack to our lives*. Enjoy it and Happy listening. Oh, and to the seniors, in the words of Green Day, *I hope you had the time of your life*.

RICHELLE FIORE SAYS, "CIAO BELLAS!"

I can't speak a word of Italian or German, and my French is horrible. So much for birthrights and heritage; if you never use them, I guess you really lose them. I've worked hard to lose New England speech ticks and *bourgeoisie* aspirations bred into the suburban class. I dream of a romantic poverty, as many liberal-arts survivors must. I also wish for a guarantee for my lease and a response to my resume. I've spent four years assimilating to the New York way of life and growing from the seventeen-year old version of myself that arrived on Castle Place, plump and shell-shocked. I dreamt for so long about getting away from my childhood I didn't really know how to grow up.

I will never deny the challenging and still nurturing environment I found within CNR. It was here that I experienced many different opportunities that have shaped my very nature. I will always remember sitting around the seminar table at the top of the Castle on my first day of college, feeling the same discomfort of the first grade, that ten of my classmates would describe themselves as 'princesses.' I was ready to head for the hills, fearing I would never fit in, because it was my teenage angst that prompted me to describe myself as a 'bitch.' Maybe it was my CNR karma that the song I listened to before climbing the Castle stairs was *Welcome to the Jungle*.

Four years seems like such a long and short time in my life. Only a year ago, I answered 'yes' when someone asked if I was graduating with so many of my friends. My junior year was one of the hardest of my life, withstanding very personal traumas and suffering from some burnout. Editing *Femmes* remains a closely



Above: Emily Williams '05 and Richelle Fiore '04 have a spa night!

Photo: R. Fiore

treasured memory as well as my involvement with the production of *The Vagina Monologues* and saying goodbye to the very people who made me love being at CNR last May. After three years of being involved at CNR and in Honors, I developed a case of cabin fever. I wanted out at practically any cost.

No one ever told me that during your senior year, you have to grow up.

The Honors Program helped me develop an intellectual curiosity and allowed for research opportunities. I studied feminist theory and its relation to pop-culture in an independent study, became a reluctant Buddhist for a semester, discovered legal inequities that still exist, and studied the literary works of Philip Roth and Sylvia Plath. I tried to cast off the shackles of conspicuous consumption. At the end of my collegiate road, that won't be so hard—unfortunately, I don't have anyone from whom to consume.

My bookshelves are lined with books that are filled with notes, and some have even profoundly changed who I am. Some are highlighted and destroyed by love, others, the spines are barely bent. I admit I never did the reading for my American History class and a few other classes, but each helped shape me. My photo albums are filled with moments and people I no longer speak to and ones that I will love for the rest of my life.

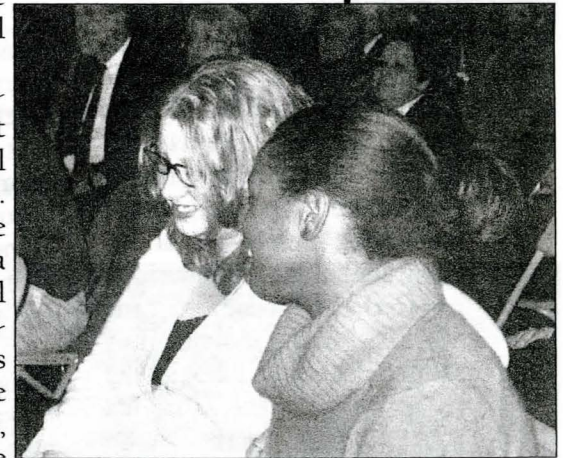
I can't imagine a day without listening to Maggie laugh when one of us accidentally knocks over the ashtray or Kerri taunting us with a blackmail-potent video. What will my Mondays and Wednesday mornings be like without tutoring writing or a Tuesday afternoon not discovering the nature of

Continued on Next Page

...DR. NICK SMART CALLS TO MIND

We know from the autobiographical days of Honors 101 that Richelle came to the program and the College from Enfield, Connecticut. Well, she was just beginning. A backpack and coffee mug both full to brimming became her uniform after she discarded the one she had been wearing to check groceries. Easily moving from the Big Y to the really Big Why, Richelle distinguished herself as a student with an honest, searching curiosity and the analytical and expressive skills to make good use of her interests. Her first presentation was on Fiona Apple, her last focused on Brittny, Christina and Madonna. Both presentations were excellent. Her audiences were unusually attentive. Seeing the impact her thought could have, we wonder whether a cultural critic is born or made.

In Richelle's case, a little bit of both. Her preparation in literature and writing was strong, so the English department eventually drew her in. There, she established bases of critical knowledge and became familiar with significant text milieus. In between Fiona and Madonna, Richelle developed intricate and useful ideas about the Brontë sisters, Virginia Woolf, Sylvia Plath and Phillip Roth. Her ability to cross-apply the critical lessons of canonical literature and popular culture is the signature of her analytic style. A keen awareness that a middle-class suburban background made her experience emblematic of the dominant note in American culture (home of the soccer mom, the Nascar dad—Eminem's "White America") seemed to create in Richelle an intellectual obligation. Unafraid to explore her own identity position critically, Richelle's judgment as editor of *Tatler* and *Femmes* was never safe, apologetic, or boring. For that, and for the countless hours of labor under four different directors who relied on her to organize, file, make fliers, schedule rooms, serve on boards, we will remember her proudly and for a long time.



Richelle Fiore '04 and
Sophilia LeBlanc '04 at
the Centennial Brain
Bowl.

Photo: R. Fiore

Continued from Page 24

literature? I've spent my senior year coming to terms with no longer being a student. It's a hard moment to come to terms with—I've been a student for seventeen years.

Four years ago, I spent a weekend with Kimberli in Brooklyn, unsure why I was picked to attend the NE-NCHC conference. We may not have been close friends, but I was grateful she was there to share this new experience with me, and helped immensely in bolstering my confidence when we ran our workshop on publications. I was glad that I could seek solace with Faith when the media malfunctioned on Conference Day my sophomore year, making my presentation of rap videos a bust.

Just last week, my advisor and mentor of my symposium presentation became my hero when he solved a situation that threatened to be a repeat of that situation. I spent so many grueling hours in various cramped offices helming *Tatler* with Jenn Snively, and was glad to pass that responsibility to the capable hands of Sam and Alana.

I have a kinship with Maya, Jen, Liz, and Kimberli as the graduates of the Class of 2004, one that is strongly tied to my memories of my alma mater. I have a deep love for all of the people who have helped me discover me, and those who will be staying around to see how the road bends next.

JUST FLOAT

Christina Simpson

Christina is a dedicated Femmes contributor who is also an Associate Editor!

The end of the school year rapidly approaches. For some of us, it is a huge, overwhelming tidal wave ready to swallow us while we tread these waters with pure excitement. For others, it is a misty welcome to a horizon bursting with tangerine clouds, defined by silk azure waters and aloe-colored sand that kisses your toes. Before all of us, from sophomores to seniors, run to the comfortable oceans of the summer, leaving our school clothes and textbooks to get dirty in the sand, it's best to reflect on those who taught us how to swim. For a handful of Honors freshmen, we were given an opportunity to meet CNR alumnae and share with them our college victories, inquiries, and most of all: our woes.

The E-Mentor program started in fall of 2003. Nicole Totans and Kelly Graham, E-mentor coordinators, provided a diverse range of alumnae, from court judges to theater actresses. One was assigned to each freshman and the objective was to keep in contact via email. Yet as friendship progressed a few of the *e-mentees* were privileged enough to finally meet their *e-mentors* face to face. "...On April 19th," Totans says, "the

Office of Alumnae/i Relations and CCD&P cosponsored an alumnae career panel titled *Career Planning after CNR* and 2 of the panelists were *e-mentors*. Their two *mentees* attended and were able to meet the alum face to face." I watched my friend, Sarah Murray, engage in eager and casual conversation with her E-mentor. And I discovered that there is significance in the women who touch upon our lives with a glimpse of insight into their own memories and reflections of CNR. I also found this significance within my own *e-mentor*.

Yes I, Christina Simpson, have an E-mentor.

Doreen Montavo is an actress and graduate of CNR who has a wonderful sense of humor, which is vital if not required when talking to me. Throughout the year we have shared many of our interests and our next goal is to finally meet and hopefully watch one of our performances, be it either hers or mine. She, as well as the other alumnae, transforms the afterlife of CNR, clouded with loan fees and employ-

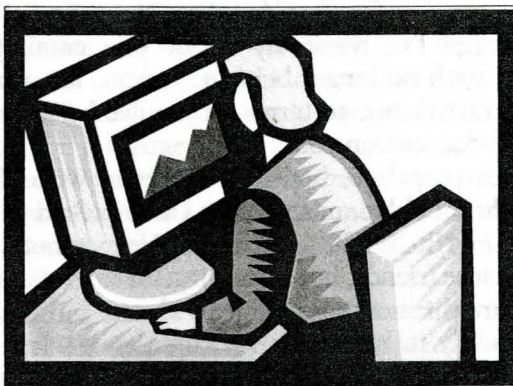
ment lines, into something exciting rather than scary. Even if by chance our paths may split, it is refreshing to remember the women who paved the rocky road to adulthood with reassurance and sanity for the rest of us

And there will be more

According to Nicole Totans, "This year was only a pilot program but next year we plan to open this opportunity up to all incoming freshmen. We hope to match at least 50 pairs. We will be sending all accepted freshmen a letter in the summer and will start pairing them up with alum *e-mentors* as soon as we get their responses."

I notice that the shores of earth are one year farther

Continued on Page 29



The E-mentor program is yet another way for freshmen to have access to information to make their first year transition into college a little bit easier.

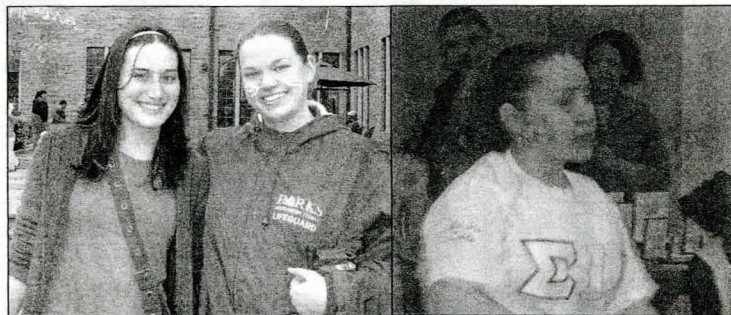
STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL 2004



Left to Right: Megan Skrip '07 and Betsy Skrip '06 at the Mini Golf Booth; Ruth Santiago '05 smiles at Strawfest; Amy Gutierrez '05 stands by the Mini Golf Booth; Nisha Feliz '06 smiles in front of the Tiger Moon Bounce.

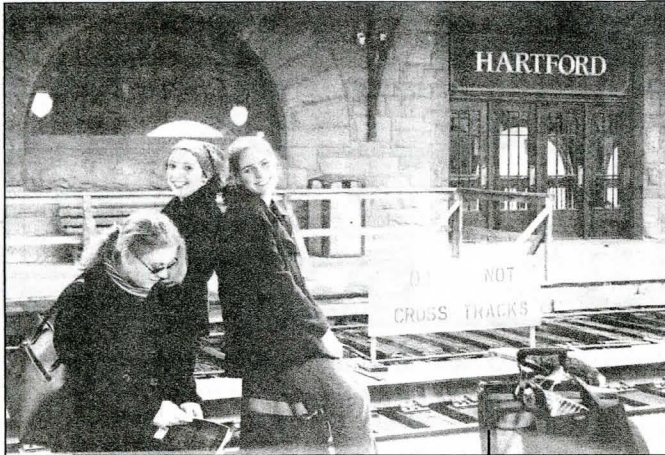


Left to Right: Lina Chico '07 enjoys Strawfest; Kimberli Ringel-Kane '04 takes part in the Daisy Chain; Omega Dale '07 prepares to face paint; Christina Simpson '07 draws a Strawfest poster.



Left to Right: Rebecca Mui '07 and Kathryn Tyranski '06 pose for picture; Leslie Gonzalez '05 represents her sorority.

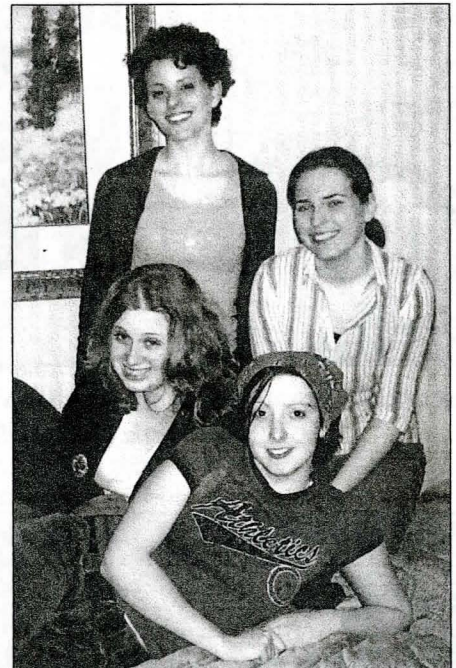
NE-NCHC REGIONAL CONFERENCE



"This was a great experience for me, especially as a second semester freshman. Presenting some of my work to a group of people was a scary experience for me, but proved to be rewarding as well. Also, listening to presentations given by the other stu-

dents was genuinely interesting and worthwhile."

- Sarah Worthington '07



"Being able to observe presentation sessions from a variety of disciplines helped me both realize and get excited about the interconnectedness of the classes I am currently taking....A session I attended entitled 'The Business of Being Human' featured a presentation covering whistle-blowing and business ethics, which luckily coincided with a business ethics chapter I was reading at the time for a class. The same session also featured a presentation about factory farm veterinarians, and I'd just written a paper about factory farming in my honors colloquium last semester. Knowing that other college students in other schools are addressing the same issues I myself have addressed in classes I've taken here was both comforting and exciting."

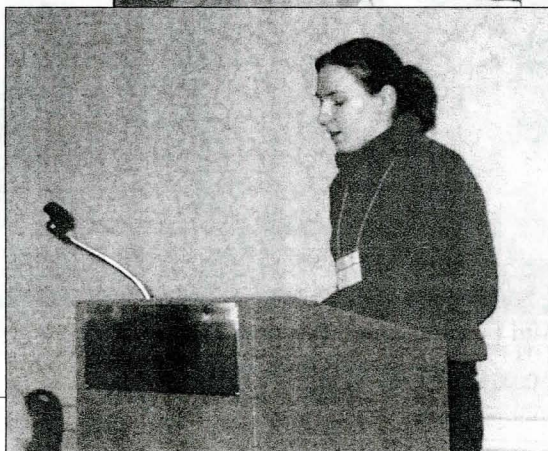
- Maria Gonzalez '05



"Examining what my peers found important enough to present at such an event was quite eye-opening. I was expecting all of the panels to relate very specifically to the theme of the

conference, but I soon realized the topics varied greatly. This was especially evident at the poster session the last morning, where interests ranged from veganism to social security and neuroscience...it allowed me to learn from fellow students while actively presenting my own knowledge and opinion on the subject."

- Omega Dale '07



Photos: A. Bass

DARKNESS

Continued from Page 7

sight, and saw nothing. She fell to the ground, threw off her Burqah, held her hands to her face and cried. Cried not only for herself but for every innocent Afghan in that country that did not have any more tears left to cry on their own. After a while had passed, she wiped her face, got up and looked one last time at the place where her home once stood. The four walls were gone, and she was angry at the Taliban who did not kill her but hurt her instead, and then sent her home too late. She thought to herself if they had not forced her into that dark room, she would have been with God now. She sighed at her luck, shook her head, and walked into the darkness, wondering where she would end up next...

A story of a teenage girl, in Afghanistan, before the United States stepped in and forced the Taliban out. Although this story is only real inside my soul, all would agree that there is a lot of truth to it. For a moment in my life, I feel as if many have forgotten about many years of suffering of the people in Afghanistan. In a college, and in a country where I feel as if I am the only Afghan girl here, I am bombarded with many ignorant comments. One woman asked me "How are you related to Osama Bin Laden" and another girl said to me "America had enough of their own problems, so there was no need for them to help your country before September 11th". But as human beings we are all one, in the eyes of God, there is no race that separates us: so why was it and is it still so wrong for us to help another country unless we feel threatened? Also, it's just a story to think about when we want to blame a whole people for the evil of a small group. It happened in the past, with the Germans and Japanese, and is still happening today against the Muslims. When are we going to realize that we are all ONE RACE? Does anyone want to speak up now?...

E-MENTORS

Continued from Page 26

away from my reach. There are new girls who will take that place. They will plant their plastic umbrellas into the sand and find their voice amongst others still watching the waters with a slight nervousness. I see the seniors with their surfboards and wetsuits, ready to ride the waves that bring them to the next stage in their life. And I hope to find them returning to the shores just as Doreen has. Returning to teach those on shore to wax their boards, wear plenty of sunscreen, and discover which foot will lead them to their first great surf.

THINGS TO DO...

Nada Ebrahim

Nada is the News Editor of the magazine and compiled the following events for your summer pleasure!

What: An American Indian theatrical production called *Traffic* held at the Coatlicue Theater.

When: May 21-22, 2004 at 8:00 PM

Where: The Circle, 404 Lafayette Street, 8th Floor, New York City

The Cost: A donation of \$10.00

More Info: Call (212) 598 - 0100 for information & reservations

Website: <http://aich.org/performart/pa.htm>

What: *May Day* is an annual Central Park picnic featuring over 300 people from the Hawaiian community, ono food, kanikapila Hawaiian music, and hula!

When: Sunday, June 6, 2004 from 12:00 PM - 5:00 PM

Where: Central Park - South East grass off Columbus Circle entrance

The Cost: FREE!!

Website:

http://www.kalena.com/hawaiian_culture_nyc.html#concerts



What: The 14th Annual Hong Kong Dragon Boat Festival in NY will feature boat racing and more

When: Saturday August 7 and Sunday August 8, 2004 from 9:00AM - 5:00PM

Where: Flushing Meadows-

Corona Park

The Cost: FREE!! For more info go to <http://www.hkdbf-ny.org/>

What: A staged reading of Igor Bauersima's play *norway.today*, which is directed by Ian Morgan of the New Group. The New Group re-

cently produced *Avenue Q*, which is a successful puppet show on Broadway.

When: Monday June 14, 2004 at 6.30 PM

Where: CUNY, Martin E. Segal Theatre Center, 365 Fifth Avenue

The Cost: IT IS FREE, however, it is based on a first come, first served basis.

More Info: For reservations contact fhentscher@gc.cuny.edu

Website: <http://www.goethe.de/uk/ney/enptheat.htm#V2>

What: *The Corset: Fashioning the Body* will explore the influence of the garment on women.

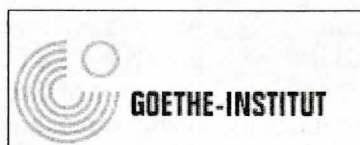
When: Thursday, May 13, 2004 at 7:30 PM

Where: Goethe-Institute New York, 1014 5th Avenue, New York, NY 10028

The Cost: \$ 8 - 10

More Info: For further information call 212-439-8700

Website: <http://www.goethe.de/uk/ney/enpkonf.htm#V2>



What: The Public Theater will be featuring Shakespeare's *Much Ado About Nothing*, starring Kristen Johnston, Brian Murray and Sam Waterston.

When: June 22 - August 8 2004 at 8:00 PM

Where: Delacorte Theater at Central Park (Enter the Park at 81st Street & Central Park West or 79th Street & 5th Avenue)

The Cost: FREE!! You must reserve a seat by

picking up tickets on the day of performance at the Delacorte Theater starting at 1:00 PM and the Public Theater, 475 Lafayette Street, from 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM.

More Info: For more information call The Public Theater at 212-539-8750.

What: Plants of the World

When: Saturday July 3 - Sunday September 5,

Where: Brooklyn Botanical Gardens, 100 Washington Avenue, Brooklyn, New York

The Cost: FREE!!

Website:

<http://www.bbg.org/vis2/eventcalendar.html#june>



What: The Bronx Zoo

When: All Summer! The perfect getaway for a fun day with the family or friends...10 a.m.—4:30 p.m.

Where: The Bronx Zoo is located at Boston Road and the Bronx River Parkway (near Fordham Road)...off Exit six on the Bronx River Parkway



The Cost: \$8.00 for adults (The last ticket is sold 30 minutes before closing)

Website: <http://www.bronxzoo.com>

What: The Lower East Side Tenement Museum
When: All Summer! Visit the website for stipulations on holiday hours, etc.

Where: 90 Orchard Street, Manhattan, New York

The Cost: Prices vary on what activity you'd like to do!

Website: <http://www.tenement.org>

LOWER EAST SIDE TENEMENT MUSEUM

What: Playland

When: All Summer! Visit the website for stipulations on holiday hours, etc.

Where: Rye, New York...visit the website for exact directions

The Cost: Prices vary on how many tickets you'd like (24 tickets = \$21.00). You can also enter the park free of charge to listen to bands that come to perform at the park.

Website: <http://www.ryeplayland.org/default.htm>

THE ALUMAE UPDATE: 2004

2000s

Mary Job (mjob_designs@lycos.com) '01, lives in New Rochelle, and works as site administrator for Lenox Terrace Development Associates in New York City.

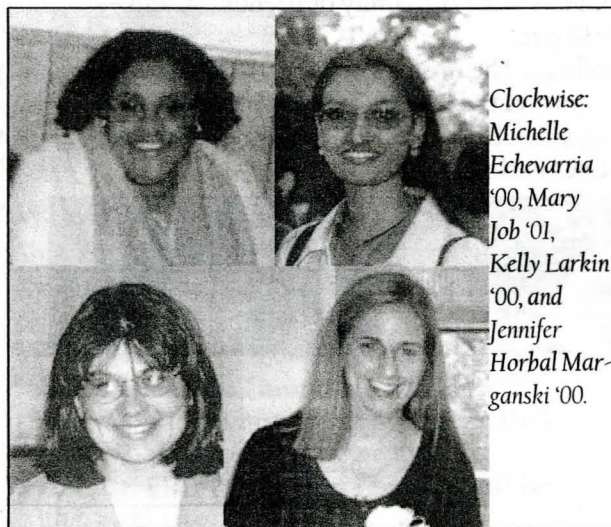
Michelle Echevarria (davill78@yahoo.com), '00, received a masters degree in digital design from The New School in New York and now works as a freelance web designer/developer. Her portfolio is available at <http://www.bronxplanet.com>.

Dayanara Hudson (dayanara_hudson@hotmail.com), '00, writes that she moved to Baltimore last summer, where she lives with her two Pekepoos, which she says is "close enough to having kids at home." She is in her second semester at the University of Baltimore's graduate program in publications design, and working as a Production Coordinator with T. Rowe Price. Upon her move from New York City to Maryland, she claims that her "biggest challenge right now is driving...NY really spoils a person, but there's a dire need for a car here and I'm not the best driver in the world." She wishes lots of luck to the staff of *Femmes* and says "hello to Vera!"

Jennifer Horbal Marganski (jhorbal@lycos.com), '00, married Paul Marganski on November 29, 2003; the couple has since moved into their first home together. She is currently working as an eighth grade social studies teacher in the Amity Region #5 School District and writes that she is "so happy with both my career and personal life. I am (still) attempting to finish my masters' thesis on twentieth century Native American boarding

schools and after that will be taking a break from academics. When I do go back for my sixth year, which will most likely be within three to five years, I plan on pursuing library science. I have become very interested in the field in the past two years." She writes that her memories as editor of *Femmes d'Esprit* "are some of my fondest from CNR" and is glad to see the multiple issues this past year.

Kelly Larkin (kavlarkin@aol.com), '00, received a master's degree from the St. John's University Reading Specialist Program in September, 2000, and is currently finishing her fourth year of teaching at St. Gregory the Great in Bellerose, Queens as a Resource Room Teacher, working with children in grades 1 through 8. She helps students in all subject areas, as well as in study skills, listening comprehension, visual memory, and reading comprehension. She writes, "I keep busy after school, tutoring students in Math, Reading, and other subject areas. Last summer I toured England, Scotland, Ireland, and Wales on a 21-day trip. It was a great experience and I have integrated what I saw and learned...into my teaching this year. I hope to travel more of



Clockwise:
Michelle
Echevarria
'00, Mary
Job '01,
Kelly Larkin
'00, and
Jennifer
Horbal Mar-
ganski '00.

Europe in the future.... I look forward to continuing my goal of inspiring and teaching children through my motto, 'Learning is FUN!!' I hope that everyone from the Class of 2000-Honors Program is doing well. Hope to hear from you."

1990s



Top to bottom:
Jenna Sunderland
Barresi '99, Karen
Parks '93, Ed-
wardyne Cowan
Bennet '90 and
daughters.

Jenna Sunderland Barresi (jmsbarresi@hotmail.com) '99, former editor of *Femmes d'Esprit*, writes "Hey y'all (I'm practicing my Southern drawl)! So much has happened since I left CNR in 1999. After graduation, I moved back to my hometown in New Hampshire, where I continued working with victims of domestic violence (something I was doing in White Plains during my senior year at CNR). All was relatively quiet until the summer of 2001 when: I left my job at the Strafford County Domestic Violence Project; got married (to a police officer I met at a work-related conference back in 1999. The lesson in that is not to complain about work conferences, and bring cute outfits!); and moved back to New York to attend the Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law at Yeshiva University in Manhattan. While in law school, I had the opportunity to intern

with the New York City Law Department Office of the Corporation Counsel, the New York

City Patrolmen's Benevolent Association, and the National Labor Relations Board. And once again I am gearing up for graduation on June 1st (I feel like I just did this!), and a move down to Atlanta (where I first visited during a NCHC conference) where I will begin working as a labor and employment attorney at Fisher & Phillips, LLP this fall—hence the reason I'm practicing my Southern drawl!"

Shiba Russell (shibarussell@hotmail.com) '97 has been working at WTAE-TV (ABC) in Pittsburgh, PA since April 2002 as an anchor/reporter.

Karen Parks (kmp42@davidbowie.com) '93, lives in Pelham and works as the senior manager of programming for BBC Worldwide Americas.

Laura June Hilton (lhilton@muskingum.edu) '91, lives in Cambridge, Ohio, and is assistant professor of history at Muskingum College.

Vincenza Campisano Baugnon (michaelbaugnon@rcn.com) '90, works as a clinical psychologist after receiving her Ph.D. from Pacific Graduate School of Psychology, an affiliate of Stanford University. Vicki and her husband Michael, live in San Mateo California where she says they "are enjoying family life with our daughter, Talia, who is nine years old. Our work as clinical psychologists enables us to reach out to the community and offers us valuable, stimulating, and gratifying experiences."

Edwardyne Cowan Bennett (EdwardyneCowan@aol.com), '90, writes: "After a two year hiatus, I will be back on the stage again this June in a production of 'Damn Yankees' at the East Carolina Theatre. I am looking forward to performing once again and spending time with my family in the South for a few weeks! My husband, Tim, has been

working as a director in NY, and the twins, Kathryn and Violet are now 2 1/2 years old (so we are very busy keeping up with them)! I started working part time as an instructor for Exec/Comm, a communications consulting company in NYC. I teach a variety of programs including problem solving, presentation skills, and negotiating skills. The company gives me the flexibility I need to be home with my family and to pursue my acting career."

1980s

Tara Amberly Patterson (Tara.A.Patterson@marsh.com) '89, is employed by Marsh USA as a Corporate Trainer and lives in Roswell, Georgia. Her son, Kyle Thomas Patterson, was born on October 10, 2003, whom she describes as "a dream-come-true."

Elizabeth Donnolo Bonet (p3dbonet@att.net) '89, lives in Suwanee, Georgia, where she works as an account executive for EAP Consultants. She writes, "I have been married 21 years to a wonderful man I began to date during my last year at CNR. We have 4 beautiful kids - William, born in 1989; Nick, born in 1990; Danielle born in 1993; Robert born in 1996."

Maria Gomez (magwriterus@yahoo.com) '85 lives in Kissimmee, Florida. She writes, "Since December, 2003, I own and operate my own business. It is called PostNet; a franchise of Postal and Business Services Center."

Donna Van Alst (dmv2005@columbia.edu) '85, is currently a doctoral student in social work at Columbia University. She has finished her coursework and hopes to begin work on her dissertation this coming fall. "In the meantime," she writes, "I will continue an historical research project focusing on a faith-based charity that operated in NYC in the mid-1800s and

teaching program evaluation and research to MSW students." This June, Donna will return full-time to her position as Associate Director of the Center for Children and Families, an applied social science research and policy analysis center at Rutgers University. "My work involves managing a variety of research, evaluation and policy analysis projects for public and non-profit organizations in New Jersey," she writes. "The bulk of my activities focus on helping the state's public child welfare agency improve services for older youth in foster care." At home, Donna says that she and her husband Fred focus on their children, Rafael and Jonas, ages 7 and 5: "They love sports, particularly soccer, basketball, gymnastics and skateboarding, and are quite fearless competitors. Consequently, Fred and I spend a lot of time on sports fields, as well as driving to and from sports fields. We have been quite fortunate thus far in that trips to the emergency room have been rare." She concludes that she never thought her life would be quite this busy, but "thanks to a supportive spouse, resilient children, a reliable baby-sitter and a high tolerance for sleep deprivation - things seem to be going well."

Judith Toterhi Klock (judith.klock@fincen.gov) '83, lives in Ashburn, Virginia, and is a senior intelligence analyst for Financial Crimes Enforcement Network.

1970s

Ruth Mohr (jimmohr@worldnet.att.net) '79 is currently working as Staff Director for the Deputy Secretary of the Navy for Military Personnel Policy, focusing on defense transformation initiatives. Among her many achievements, she has received the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, the Joint Service Commendation Medal, the Navy Achievement Medal,

the National Defense Service Medal, the Navy Expert Rifle Medal and the Navy Expert Pistol Shot medal. She writes that she is "very lucky to have this great chance to work with incredibly smart, high-ranking senior leadership in our government." After thinking about careers in both education and corporate America, she changed her path after visiting a recruitment station on Wall Street and joined the Navy on November 21, 1982: "After hearing of the many opportunities the US Navy would offer to me, to include various locations worldwide and increasing leadership assignments, I quickly made the somewhat radical decision to join. I have never looked back.... I remember thinking that my initial commitment of 4 years in the Navy was so long - as long as a 4 year college education - it is hard to believe that here I am - 22 years later!" Ruth considers having lived in Europe to be "the highlight of my career. Plus, since my entire family moved to Naples, Italy with me, it has provided my two children with unforgettable memories and experiences (seeing the Coliseum at age 5 for my son James)." Just recently, Ruth coordinated a dinner for VADM Patricia Tracey - "the first three star in DoD. It was really nice to 'look up to' a sister alumnae and native New Yorker!"

Teri Melchionna Rosen (t.r.rosen@att.net) '76 works in private practice as a Licensed Professional Counselor. She writes, "When I attended State University of NY in the fifties, I was serious and hardworking, so when I fell in love with Ed Rosen and we decided to marry, I made the decision to drop out of school. How innocent it seems today that it never occurred to me to stay in school and finish my education as a married woman....Eventually colleges began accepting older adults in undergraduate schools and I was delighted. Credits were accepted at CNR and I graduated as my children looked on and applauded me and watched as my hero, Captain Kangaroo, gave me my degree." Teri went on to Seton Hall University for her masters in psychology, and now prac-

tices as a therapist at her home office in Verona, New Jersey. "I am particularly interested in hypnosis, which fascinated me when I used it to give up smoking some twenty years ago," she says. She has four grandchildren: Michael, Steven, Victoria, Gerard.

WE LOSE A FRIEND...

Anne Houle will be remembered as a tremendously creative person who "saw something beautiful everywhere" as her friend Paula Hughes said recently---and often with a good deal of droll humor. She wrote and made art with energy and style. When Anne first appeared in the Honors section of my Freshman Studies class, she was a very good writer, but there was more to it. She was obviously intelligent, but that wasn't the whole story either. Anne possessed wit. Her approach to the world was one of absolute seriousness, laced with delightful postmodern irony.

Anne shared her many talents easily and generously. She patiently taught us various approaches to mask-making for our in-class performance of *The Crucible*. As a response to Veblen's "Conspicuous Consumption" Anne produced an exuberant series of cartoons of the commodity-loving millennial hipsters found on the Lower East Side, later published in *Femmes*. Anne was a peer tutor in the Writing Program, and contributed to the psychic health of the school as a member of SAGA and Artist's Anonymous, which gives any student the tools and space to experience art-making. She sat on the Art Board and helped build the CNR and Art Department websites. She was a contributor to *Phoenix*. She created the beautiful new logo for Women's Studies. What she might have done will be forever regretted and missed by those of us who knew her as a student, classmate and friend, but her accomplishments will continue to compel us as the expression of her love of the world, and its love of her.

- Dr. Cynthia Kraman
Department of English



Teaching Latin
21st Century Challenges

Elected to
Honors
Board

Contract
a class

StrawFest!

Attend a
Convocation

Junior
Colloquium

NCHC
Conference!

Move into
Angela!

Honors
Conference
Day

Time to
find a
mentor!

Senior
Symposium